Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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P R 232240Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6822 INFO USMISSION GENEVA AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, PE, CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN REFUGEES END HUNGER STRIKE IN UNHCR OFFICES

1. LOCAL PRESS SEPTEMBER 23 REPORTS AND UN OFFICES CONFIRM THAT EIGHT CHILEAN REFUGEES WHO OCCUPIED UNHCR OFFICES ON SEPTEMBER 19 HAVE ENDED THEIR HUNGER STRIKE. HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO OCCUPY UNHCR OFFICES IN LIMA. A UN OFFICIAL FROM BRAZIL ARRIVED DAWN SEPTEMBER 22, TO REINFORCE LOCAL UN TEAM IN TALKS WITH THE REFUGEES AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON THEIR SITUATION HERE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE LATE SEPTEMBER 22, ANNOUNCING THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE HAD BEEN LIFTED, AND MANIFESTING THE GOP'S CONCERN OVER STATEMENTS AND ATTITUDES OF THE EIGHT REFUGEES WHICH THE GOP CONSIDERS OFFENSIVE. UN REPRESENTATIVE IN LIMA INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THE REFUGEES HAVE ESTABLISHED DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH PRESS. AND THAT PRESS REPORTS ON THE SITUATION ARE CONFUSING AND SOMEWHAT DISTANT FROM THE TRUTH. CORREO OF SEPTEMBER 23 REPORTS THAT UN OFFICIALS ARE NEGOTIATING WITH EMBASSIES OF CANADA, SWEDEN AND FRANCE FOR ASYLUM FOR THE REFUGEES, AND THAT A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE REFUGEES HAS STATED THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATTER HAVE REJECTED A U.S. OFFER (SIC) OF ASYLUM, WHICH OFFER THIS EMBASSY DENIED MAKING.
CORREO ALSO REPORTS THAT NINE CHILEANS ARE PRESENTLY DETAINED BY PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES. UN REPS REPORTED THAT, TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THIS FIGURE IS EXAGGERATED.

2. COMMENT. THE LIFTING OF THE HUNGER STRIKE MAY BE

ONLY A TEMPORARY RESPITE FOR UN OFFICIALS IF, AS WE SUSPECT, THEY FAIL TO FIND THIRD COUNTRIES WILLING TO ACCEPT THE LARGE GROUP OF CHILEAN REFUGEES HERE. SHLAUDEMAN

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